

Testimony of the
Connecticut Urology Society
On HB 5476, An Act Concerning Pathology Billing Practices.

Before the Public Health Committee
On
March 12, 2010

Good Afternoon, Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, for the record my name is Dr. Art Tarantino and I am a board certified urologist practicing in West Hartford for over 20 years. I am also the legislative chair of the Connecticut Urology Society and am here to support HB 5476 with some amendments.

I would like to thank this committee for bringing back this important consumer advocacy bill that looks to strengthen both transparency and the quality of care for our Connecticut residents. As many of you know the Connecticut Urologists did not have an opportunity to speak on this bill last year and we are thankful for the opportunity to do so today. We are deeply concerned that HB 5476 as written will set precedents to monopolize health services and limit access to care. We do not believe this was the intent of the bill and would like to address some specific language and offer some substitute language which we feel would continue to support both the spirit of the bill which we believe is for transparency for Connecticut Citizens and also to continue to provide access and fairness to the delivery of care for our residents.

These amendments are as follows:

First Line 48 Delete the word **direct** before supervision- The term direct supervision means that the physician has to be physically be in the procedure room to perform any type of pathology preparatory work.

And second, Line 63-65 deleting the text that reads **excluding** and replace it with **including**. Also the text that reads **does not perform the professional diagnostic component** and replacing it with **does perform the technical or professional component**. Removing the negative language and replacing it with a positive statement is more in keeping with the intent of the bill with regard to consumer transparency.

In closing, I would like to thank this committee for considering these amendments and for your commitment to improving the quality and accessibility to health care in Connecticut. We look forward to working with this committee and our fellow colleagues on this issue in the weeks ahead and finally, it is our hope that these types of issues will be addressed, in the future, through actions outlined by the program review recommendations on scope of practice determination for health care professionals that was raised by this committee last week.

It is important that we continue to work together to attract and retain health care professionals to care for the citizens of our state.

Thank you.